

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch
Post Office Box 3755
Seattle, Washington 98124-3755
Telephone (360) 750-9046

ATTN: Ron Klump, Project Manager

Public Notice Date: September 16, 2005

Expiration Date: October 16, 2005

Reference: 200400642

Name: Aho Construction I, Inc.

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for certain work described below and shown on the enclosed drawings.

APPLICANT: Aho Construction I, Inc.

5512 Northeast 109th Court, Suite 101 Vancouver, Washington 98662 Telephone: (360) 254-0493

AGENT:

Ecological Land Services, Inc.

1157 3rd Avenue

Longview, Washington 98632

ATTN: Francis Naglich or Mara McGrath

Telephone: (360) 578-1371

LOCATION: In wetlands adjacent to Burnt Bridge Creek at Vancouver, Washington.

<u>WORK</u>: Place fill in 4.39 acres of wetlands for 141 single-family residences, subdivision roads, and stormwater detention pond.

PURPOSE: To provide housing in Clark County.

<u>MITIGATION</u>: The preliminary mitigation plan, proposes to create 4.37 acres of wetlands, enhance 1.43 acres of wetlands, and retain a 50-foot buffer around the mitigation site. Creation would involve up to 3 feet of excavation with four habitat islands (1.07 acres), the installation of large woody debris (LWD), planting with native plants, and the placement of bird boxes. Wetland enhancement would involve up to 1 foot of excavation, the placement of LWD, planting with native plants, and the placement of bird boxes. The 50-foot buffer would involve the placement of LWD, planting with native plants, and the placement of a fence and signs along the outer edge of the buffer.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA on all actions that may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat. The Bradshaw's desert parsley (Lomatium bradshawii), endangered; water howellia (Howellia aquatilis), threatened; bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), threatened; Lower Columbia River steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss), threatened, and the Lower Columbia River coho (O. kisutch) proposed threatened; in the state of Washington, may occur in the

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proposed project area. For the steelhead, critical habitat has been proposed. After receipt of comments from this public notice, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will evaluate the potential impacts to the Bradshaw's desert parsley, water howellia, bald eagle, Lower Columbia River steelhead and Lower Columbia River coho.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The proposed action would impact approximately 0.28 acre of EFH for Pacific salmon in the project area.

If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) determines that the proposed action may adversely affect EFH for federally managed fisheries in Washington waters, the Corps will initiate EFH consultation with the NMFS. The Corps' final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The District Engineer has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible and other sources of information. There are no recorded historic properties within the permit area. The permit area has been so extensively modified by modern development that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon an undisturbed historic property. The District Engineer invites responses to this public notice from Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area. This public notice initiates consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.4[a][3]), with any Tribe that has information or concerns with historic properties in the proposed permit area.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING:</u> Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

<u>EVALUATION:</u> The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for the work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

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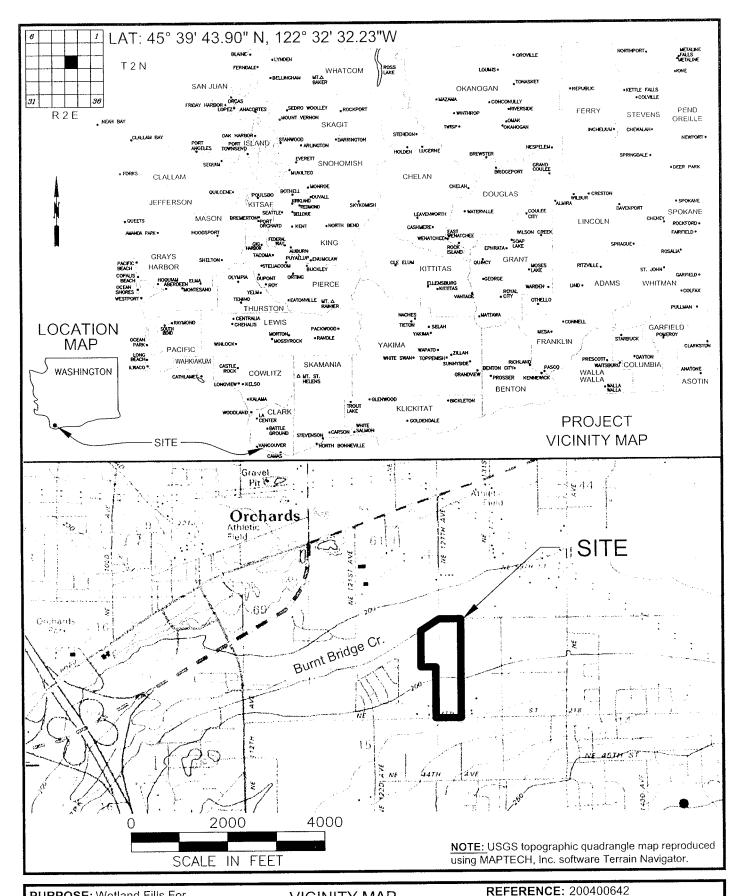
The proposed discharge will be evaluated for compliance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines require an alternatives analysis for any proposed discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

<u>ADDITIONAL EVALUATION</u>: The State of Washington is reviewing this work for compliance with the applicable State and Federal water quality standards pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the public interest to authorize this proposal. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include on the subject line of the e-mail message the permit applicant's name and reference number as shown below. All e-mail comments should be sent to Ron.Klump@usace.army.mil. Conventional mail comments should be sent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Post Office Box 3755, Seattle, Washington, 98124-3755. Both conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below, and the commentor's name, address, and phone number. All comments whether conventional mail or e-mail must reach this office, no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration. Please include the following name and reference number:

Aho Construction I, Inc., 200400642

Encl Drawings (7)



PURPOSE: Wetland Fills For Residential Subdivision

VICINITY MAP

Aho Construction I, Inc. 5512 NE 109th Court, Suite 101 Vancouver, WA 98662

Copy of Adjoining Property Owners are in our District File.

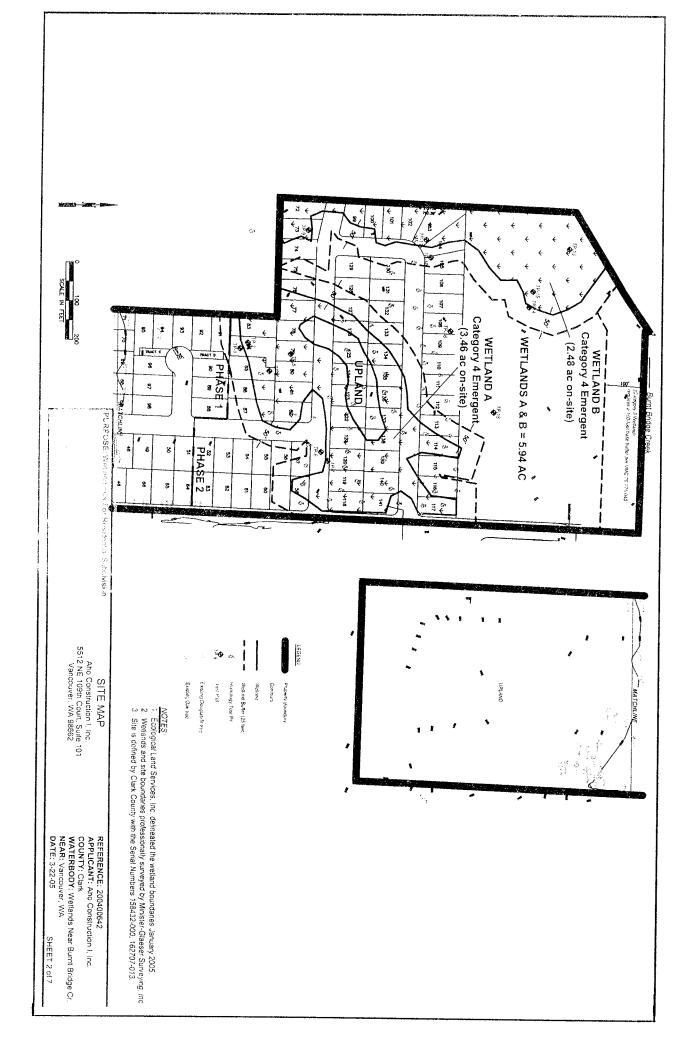
APPLICANT: Aho Construction I, Inc.

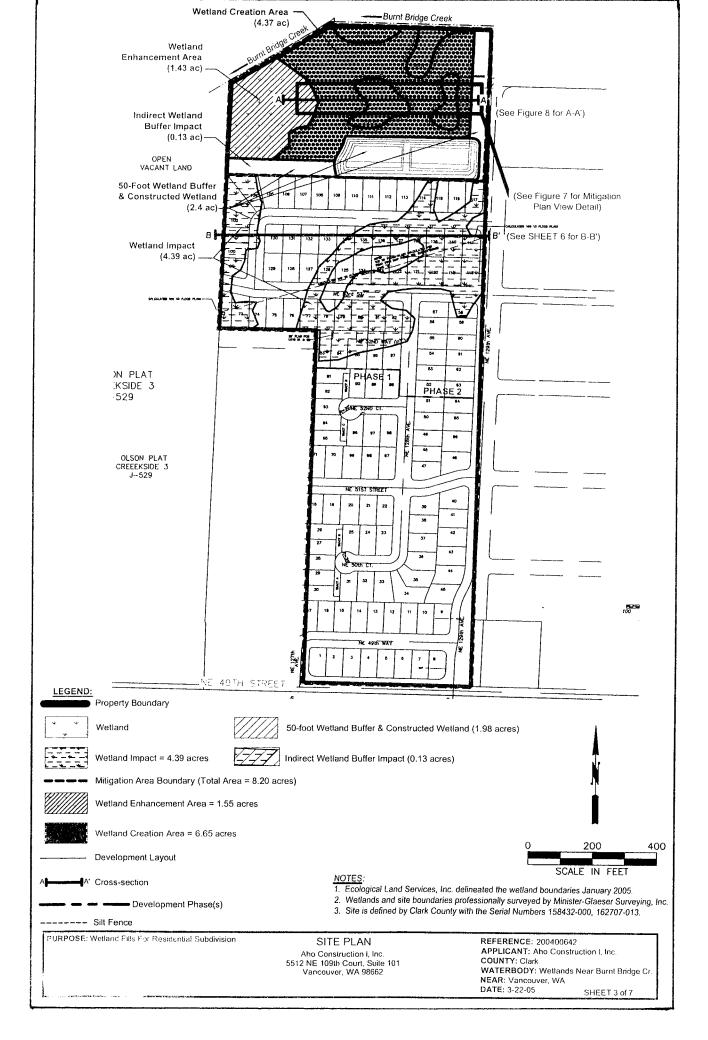
COUNTY: Clark

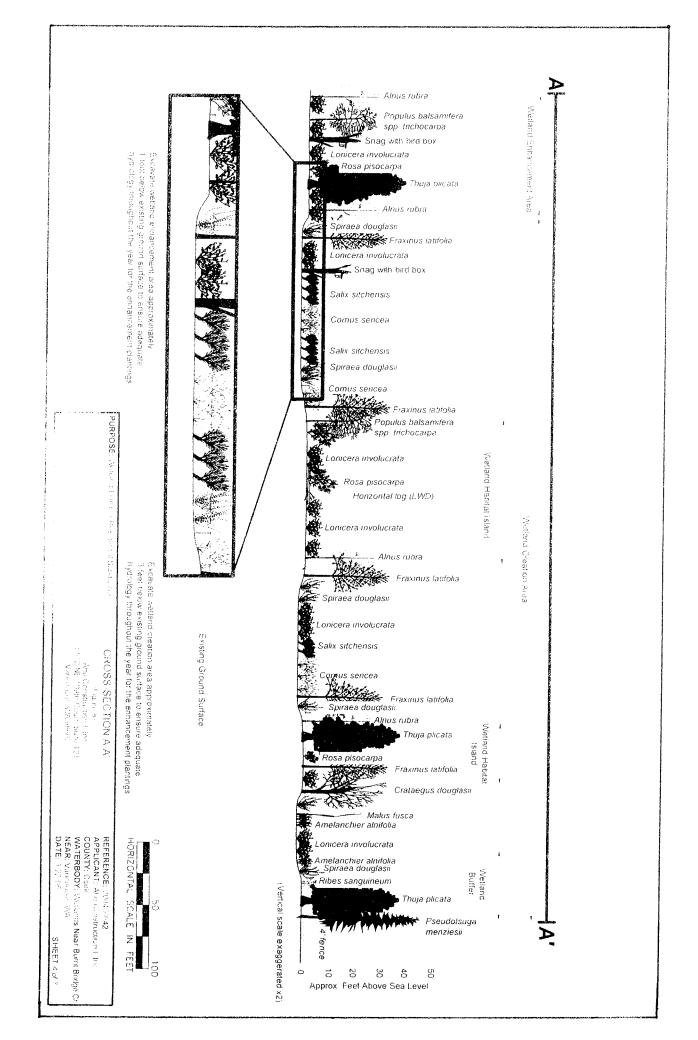
WATERBODY: Wetlands Near Burnt Br. Cr.

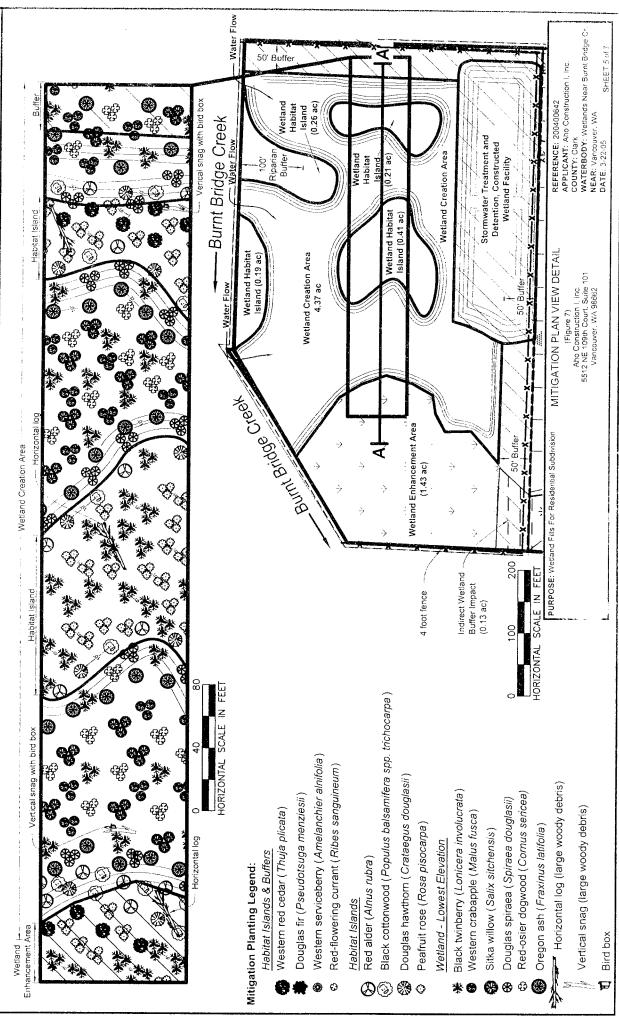
NEAR: Vancouver, Washington

DATE: 3-22-05 SHEET 1 of 7

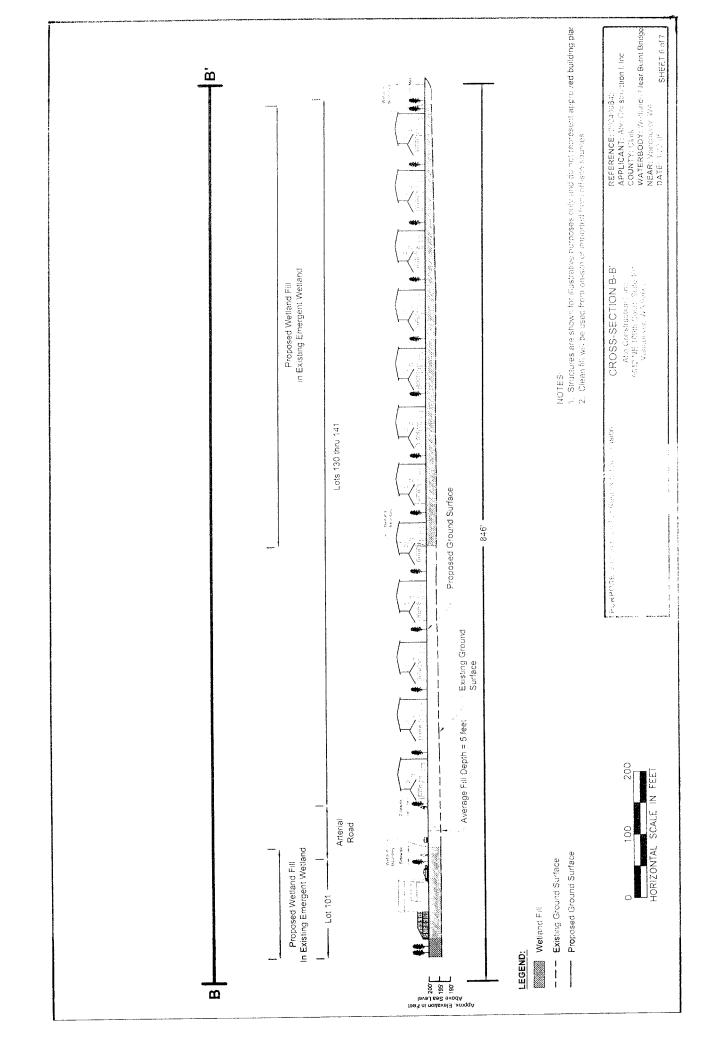








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WETLAND IMPACTS

The proposed residential subdivision will impact 4.39 acres of Category 4 emergent wetlands per the City of Vancouver wetland rating system.

WETLAND MITIGATION

To compensate for wetland impacts, an 8.20-acre wetland mitigation site will be developed in the northern portion of the property along Burnt Bridge Creek. The mitigation area will both create and enhance wetlands to compensate for project impacts. The goal of the proposed mitigation is twofold: 1) to create a 4.37-acre Category 3 forested and scrub shrub wetland with a minimum 50-foot buffer along its southern and eastern boundaries and 2) to enhance 1.43 acres of Category 4 emergent wetland to a Category 3 forested and scrub-shrub wetland. The proposed mitigation will achieve greater functions and protection than provided by the wetlands to be impacted. Additionally, the proposed mitigation area creates a large, high quality riparian buffer and will substantially improve the size and functions of the stream buffer of Burnt Bridge Creek. The subdivision layout was purposefully designed to site the mitigation area adjacent to Burnt Bridge Creek, to connect with the existing riparian corridor and to avoid fragmenting the wetlands in the middle of the site.

IMPACT		MITIGATION			
Location	Size	Method	Size	Ratio	Details
Wetlands A & B (direct impact from fill)	4.39 acres	Wetland Creation	4.37 acres	1:1	Excavate wetland mitigation area with four habitat island (1.07 acres); install LWD ¹ , native plants, and bird boxes.
		≥50-foot Buffer	2.40 acres		Install LWD, native plants, and fence with permanent signs along outer wetland buffer. Permanent signs will be posted at least one per lot.
Wetland B (indirect impact from converting wetland to buffer)	0.13 acres	Wetland Enhancement	1.43 acres	11:1	Install LWD, native plants, and bird boxes.
		Total =	8.20 acres		

PURPOSE: Wetland Fills For Residential Subdivision

MITIGATION PLAN SUMMARY

Aho Construction I, Inc. 5512 NE 109th Court, Suite 101 Mancouver, WA 98662

REFERENCE: 200400642

APPLICANT: Aho Construction I, Inc.

COUNTY: Clark

WATERBODY: Wetlands Near Burnt Br. Cr.

NEAR: Vancouver, Washington

DATE: 3-22-05 SHEET 7 of 7



STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600 (360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Notice of Application for Water Quality Certification

Date: September 15, 2005

Notice is herby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. 200400642 will comply with the Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Act, and with applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to compliance with water pollution control laws may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the above publication date to:

Federal Permit Coordinator Department of Ecology SEA Program Post Office Box 47600 Olympia, Washington 98504-7600